

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A process for producing a mycelium of a Matsutake fungus, comprising the step of cultivating a mycelium on a small scale under agitation without aeration in a liquid medium or with aeration at a low rate of less than 0.05 vvm.

2. (original): The process according to claim 1, further comprising, as a precultivation step before the agitating cultivation step,

- (1) cultivating a mycelium in a liquid medium under stationary conditions,
- (2) cultivating a mycelium under shaking, or
- (3) cultivating a mycelium in a liquid medium under stationary conditions, and further cultivating the obtained mycelium under shaking.

3. (currently amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein an agitation power per unit volume of a culture medium in the agitating cultivation step is 0.01 to 2 kW/m³.

4. (original): A process for producing a mycelium of a Matsutake fungus, comprising the steps of:

- cultivating a mycelium in a liquid medium under stationary conditions, and
- cultivating the obtained mycelium under shaking.

5. (currently amended): A process for producing a mycelium of a Matsutake fungus, comprising the step of cultivating the mycelium obtained by the process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1 as a seed culture under submerged conditions.

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6. (currently amended): The process according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~claim 2, wherein a period of the stationary cultivation step is 30 to 400 days.

7. (currently amended): The process according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~claim 2, wherein a period of the shaking cultivation step is 5 to 50 days.

8. (currently amended): The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein a propagation rate in inoculation is 2 to 50 times.

9. (currently amended): The process according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein an osmotic pressure of a culture medium is 0.01 to 0.8 MPa.

10. (currently amended): The process according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein a concentration of a fibrous mycelium contained in an initial mycelium is 0.05 g/L or more.

11. (new): The process according to claim 2, wherein an agitation power per unit volume of a culture medium in the agitating cultivation step is 0.01 to 2 kW/m³.

12. (new): A process for producing a mycelium of a Matsutake fungus, comprising the step of cultivating the mycelium obtained by the process according to claim 2 as a seed culture under submerged conditions.

13. (new): A process for producing a mycelium of a Matsutake fungus, comprising the step of cultivating the mycelium obtained by the process according to claim 3 as a seed culture under submerged conditions.

14. (new): A process for producing a mycelium of a Matsutake fungus, comprising the step of cultivating the mycelium obtained by the process according to claim 4 as a seed culture under submerged conditions.

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15. (new): The process according to claim 3, wherein a period of the stationary cultivation step is 30 to 400 days.

16. (new): The process according to claim 3, wherein a period of the stationary cultivation step is 30 to 400 days.

17. (new): The process according to claim 4, wherein a period of the stationary cultivation step is 30 to 400 days.

18. (new): The process according to claim 3, wherein a period of the shaking cultivation step is 5 to 50 days.

19. (new): The process according to claim 4, wherein a period of the shaking cultivation step is 5 to 50 days.

20. (new): The process according to claim 5, wherein a period of the shaking cultivation step is 5 to 50 days.